



Washington State Department of Agriculture *Hearing Notice*

For immediate release: May 9, 2001 (01-18)

Contact: Jim Quigley (360) 902-1833
Mike Louisell (360) 902-1813

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

Industry seeks crop year markings on apple boxes

OLYMPIA — Marking the harvest year on all apple containers and adopting an annual release date for marketing Golden Delicious and Granny Smith apples are proposed. Public comment will be taken in Yakima and Wenatchee at the following locations:

- **Yakima:** 1 p.m. May 16, state Department of Agriculture, 21 North First Ave.
- **Wenatchee:** 1 p.m. May 17, Washington State Apple Commission, 2900 Euclid Ave.

The Washington State Horticultural Association is recommending that apple cartons be marked with the harvest year. Mandatory marking would begin Oct. 1 of each year and be applied only to apples harvested in the previous year. The marking provision would be effective Oct. 1, 2001 on the crop harvested in the fall of 2000. The proposal would assist shippers with inventory controls and aid traffic associations with compiling marketing data.

The proposal also establishes Sept. 20 as the permanent harvest release date for Golden Delicious varieties. Oct. 10 would be the permanent harvest release date for Granny Smith varieties.

"The Horticultural Association proposes these dates as being sufficient for apples to reach maturity for marketability," said Jim Quigley, program manager for the Department of Agriculture's Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program. Growers could ship prior to these dates by passing sugar-content (soluble solids) tests for Golden Delicious apples and a starch-iodine rating test for Granny Smith varieties. The tests are conducted by staff in the Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program.

For a copy of the proposed rules or to submit written comments, contact Jim Quigley, program manager, Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program, Commodity Inspection Division, Washington State Department of Agriculture, PO Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560, or FAX to (360) 902-2085. Deadline for comments is May 16.

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